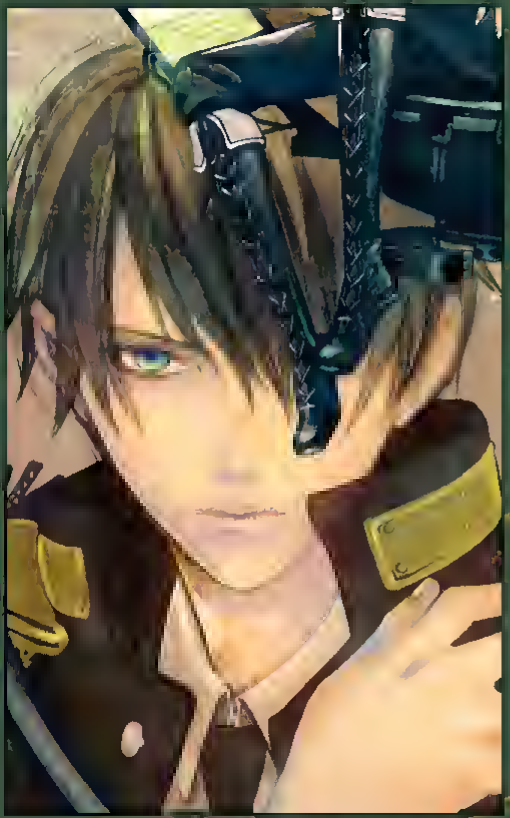

Ilegenes
-Kokuyou no Kiseki-

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 3 Chapter 13

ISBN 978-4-86127-638-5
By: Kuwabara Mizuna & Ishizue Kachiru

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TRY PUTTING ON YOUR THINKING CAP, ES
YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR UNIFORM, NIISAN?
YEAH.
WHY?
Putting on the thinking cap.
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
I must punish him severely.
Flutter
I AM HIS GOD
Es s so adorable
WAS IT FOR ADULT REASONS?
NO BECAUSE IT'S SUMMER
Want some rest?

イルゲネ
黒耀の軌
03

03

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第13話
……
…I'M HOME NOW.
step
step
YOU WENT TO THE INNER ISLAND?
shut

!
startle
FON...
I WON'T TROUBLE YOU
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO KEEP GOING AFTER THIS
STOP HERE. DON'T GO NEAR THE INNER ISLAND
IF THE PERSON YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS CONNECTED TO POWER ON THE INNER ISLAND
AND YOU KEEP MEDDLING IN THIS, YOU MIGHT PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER.
The inner island is a hotbed for crime
BANG

AND EVEN IF YOU DON'T, IT'S PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT INNER ISLAND BUSINESSMEN WILL GO TO ANY LENGTHS
I KNOW THAT. THAT WAS HOW MY PARENTS DIED.
MOVE
IT'LL BE TOO LATE ONCE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU!
SO YOU'RE SAYING WE SHOULD JUST LET THEM DO AS THEY WISH...
Since no one will punish them.
Then I will!
RELYING ON A LEGAL SYSTEM THAT WOULD NEVER PUNISH THEM, THEY LIVE CAREFREE LIVES.
FGN...

BUT NOT NOW.
!...
THEY
DESERVE PUNISHMENT.
PUNISHING THEM WITH YOUR OWN HANDS ISN'T THE ONLY KIND OF VENGEANCE YOU CAN HAVE.

ISN'T THAT WHAT IT MEANS TO BECOME POWERFUL?
IF YOU CLIMB UP THE RANKS AND BECOME A GENERAL
THEN YOU HOLD THE POWER TO SPEAK AT THE CENTER OF ILE-GENES

YOU HAVE TO TREA-SURE YOURSELF
I BEG YOU
squeeze
So warm...

Jacques
It's so warm in your arms
If I keep myself immersed in this warmth,
the blade of revenge in my heart will melt
Even my anger over my parents' murder will be pacified...
But...
I don't know when being next to Jacques became so comforting.
So much so that I forgot about my revenge.

That is the only thing I can't do
push
I CAN'T BETRAY MYSELF AND MY PARENTS...
FON...
..SORRY, JACQUES
BUT I MIGHT NEVER FIND IT AGAIN IF I MISS THIS CHANCE
EVEN IF THERE IS A REASON I NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH
THE REASON MY PARENTS WERE MURDERED...
.....

NO MATTER WHAT?
I WON'T STOP SEARCHING
THEN I'M GOING, TOO.
!
.....
I GET IT

IF YOU'RE GOING TO THE INNER ISLAND,
YOU HAVE TO TAKE ME WITH YOU.
JACQUES
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH FORTINBRAS JACQUES?

!
BEFORE, HE ASKED ME TO HACK INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF TR NSPORT TION'S DATABASE.
HE GAVE ME A PLATE NUMBER TO LOOK UP.
DEPART-MENT OF TRANS-PORTA-TION...
I WAS UNNERVED BY HIS UNUSUAL DEMEANOR, BUT FORCING SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT... WASN'T LIKE HIM.
I SHOULD'VE AT LEAST ASKED WHY HE NEEDED TO FIND THE OWNER BEFORE HELPING HIM.
FON LOOKED INTO THE LICENSE PLATE WE SAW AT THE CAFE THE OTHER DAY...?

THE REASON FORTINBRAS WAS LOOKING INTO THAT.
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?
SO DID YOU FIND THE OWNER?
YES.
A COMPANY ON THE INNER ISLAND. WHICH MADE ME ALL THE MORE CURIOUS.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE TO HIM SO I'VE ALWAYS COMPETED WITH HIM
EVEN IF I DID, HE WON'T TELL ME. THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU.
YOU SHOULD ASK HIM.

EVEN IF I NEVER CATCH UP TO HIM, I'M CONFIDENT I CAN BECOME HIS RIGHT HAND...
YET,
FOR SOME REASON, FORTINBRAS CHOSE YOU
A CARELESS PERSON LIKE YOURSELF
BEING ROOMMATES PROBABLY HAD SOME INFLUENCE ON THAT.
.....

I EVEN THOUGHT HE WAS DAZZLING IN A MILITARY SYSTEM WHERE THE ONLY WAY TO GET AHEAD IS TO OBEY AND FOLLOW THE UPPER RANKS.
I MAY HAVE LOOKED LIKE I WAS JUDGING HIM BUT MY HEART WAS ENLIGHTENED.
WHEN HE PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE SYSTEM EARLIER.
IF HE BECOMES A PART OF THE CADRE, HE MAY BE ABLE TO REFORM THE MILITARY.
THAT HE WAS UNLIKE ANY OTHER...
NICHOLAS...
OR FIGHT WITH HIM. BUT I GENUINELY HAVE EXPECTATIONS OF HIM!
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I MIGHT ENVY HIS ABILITIES SOMETIMES...

FON.
ONLY DECIDED TO DO THINGS ON HIS OWN BECAUSE HE FEELS THERE'S NO ONE ON THIS ISLAND HE CAN RELY ON
I DON'T WANT HIM TO GO DOWN A DANGEROUS ROAD... AND YET...
SO I HOPE HE CAN WALK A RIGHTEOUS PATH
JACQUES,
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU...
WHAT IS HE...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
BUT HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE TRULY SCARY PART OF DOING THAT.
IF THIS IS HOW YOU FEEL THEN GET A HOLD OF HIS HEART, NICHOLAS
WHEN HE...
CRITICIZED THE SYSTEM BACK THERE...
YOU DO AS WELL, DON'T YOU, JACQUES?
I'M AFRAID QUITE A FEW PEOPLE FELT THE SAME AS I DID

*Fon is referring to his adopte[illegible] father here.

That decadent atmosphere.. Resigning themselves to despair, lazing and mingling together without a care, absolutely no words of hope to utter...
Mom and Dad must have felt the same as I do..
Living spare bodies actually exist.
How does he cope with the reality that he's a spare for someone else?
I'm scared, Father
That place is hell
It was my first time being with an artificial person,
As if everyone is dragging one another to the lowest level of darkness.
but I can't understand their acceptance
So scary..

Once my heart begins to harbor hate and rejection, I will feel as though I'm being swallowed whole and tortured with restlessness
The call of my soul is getting stronger each day, constantly urging me...
Hate the black market.
Kill.
Take your revenge.
Destroy them.
Ah... I want to destroy that place with my own hands!
.....

WHAT NOW?
YOU WENT TO THE INNER ISLAND?
YES.
...BS?
HE SAID HE'S YOUR CLONE... YOUR PERFECT SPARE.
I MET BS THERE
SO?
.....

TREATING SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS YOUR CLONE AS YOUR BROTHER?
HOW CAN I NOT?
THAT'S WHY I'VE ALWAYS TREASURED HIM LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER.
ALLOWING SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO EXIST, YOU DON'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT?

DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S CRUEL?

BUT SPENDING HIS ENTIRE LIFE IN A TUBE IS EVEN CRUELER, ISN'T IT?
MAYBE IT IS CRUEL

IN A CRAMPED TUBE, NOT KNOWING HIS OWN SITUATION.
SURROUNDED BY RESEARCHERS EVERY DAY, BEING WATCHED STUDIED, ADJUSTED
THE FIRST TIME HE S ALLOWED FRESH AIR IS ALSO WHEN HE HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE
SINCE HE WAS BORN HUMAN EVEN IF HE IS A CLONE,
I WANT HIM TO HAVE A NORMAL, HUMAN LIFE
A NORMAL, HUMAN LIFE? YOU DON'T EVEN LET HIM OUT FREELY
I CAN'T HELP THAT
I DON'T THINK THAT BEING BORN FROM A MOTHER'S BODY IS SOME PRIVILEGE
BUT THE FACT THAT I'M THE ORIGINAL AND HE'S A CLONE WON'T CHANGE.

IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL "LOVE"...?
HOW TWISTED.
BECAUSE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW FRIGHTENING IT IS TO HAVE YOUR OWN CLONE.
tap
I MUST EDUCATE HIM PROPERLY SO THAT HE WON'T MISUNDERSTAND.
THAT'S WHY.
HE WOULD NEVER HAVE EXISTED WITHOUT ME.
I am his origin...
His god.

Cut the arro-gance! You're not a god!

PROSTHETICS MADE BASED ON NEUROME-CHANICS AND CLONING OF LIMBS
NOT ONLY CARRY HIGHER RISKS OF CANCER BUT ALSO OF CELLS DYING DUE TO UNKNOWN CAUSES
GIVEN TODAY'S TECH-NOLOGY,
TAKING THOSE INTO CONSID-ERATION THE SAFEST FET IS A SPARE BODY CLONED FROM A COMPLETE BODY

HE ACCEPTED THIS
HE IS MY OTHER SELF WHO LETS ME CONTROL EVERYTHING AND WILL LOVE ONLY ME

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY LIVING WITH PROSTHETICS, SO WHY DO YOU STILL NEED ES?

SOON MY BODY WILL STOP GROWING
IN ORDER TO AVOID CONSTANTLY RENEWING PROSTHETICS,
I MUST OBTAIN FROM HIM A RIGHT HAND AND A PAIR OF LEGS THAT ARE NOT ONLY SAFE AND CAREFULLY ADJUSTED BUT ALSO A PERFECT MATCH TO MINE
THAT'S.
DOES ES KNOW?
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
DON'T BE SHOCKED
THAT IS [DIE] REASON FOR HIS EXISTENCE AFTER ALL.
...IT'S CRUEL
BUT I WON'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH HIM DIE
I PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, DEPRIVED OF HIS LEGS, FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE

grab
.....
I'm very grateful for Janis-nisan.
Then Es, knowing he will lose his legs, still
Of course
I COM-PLETELY...
DO NOT UNDER-STAND
THE WAY YOU EX-PRESS LOVE IS TOO CRUEL
BUT I THINK I'VE GIVEN HIM MUCH MORE HAPPI-NESS IN RETURN

HAPPI-NESS?
HE'S SOUND OF LIMB YET IN A FEW YEARS HE WILL LOSE BOTH LEGS WHERE IS THE HAPPINESS IN THAT?
THAT'S WHY I'M GRATEFUL TO HAVE HIM NOW AND LOVE HIM
ACTUALLY OPENED UP TO SOME-ONE OTHER THAN MYSELF.
WHAT A SHOCK.
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH LOVING MY OTHER SELF?
SIGH
YOU'RE INSANE!
HE....
WHEN I GO BACK, I MUST PUNISH HIM SEVERELY.

OH... COME TO THINK OF IT
THAT'S BETWEEN ME AND MY OTHER SELF. NO NEED FOR YOU TO CARE TOO MUCH.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ES?
I HEAR YOUR PARENTS ARE NATURALISTS ARE YOU?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NOT VERY HAPPY WITH OUR GOVERNMENT'S OVER-TOLERANCE OF THE BLACK MARKET.
CAN YOU REALLY BECOME THIS COUNTRY'S "SHIELD"?
Protect
this country...?

To obtain the power of change over this island, I must become a soldier...
...That's right.
In order to avenge my parents, I wanted to become stronger so I never considered it before.
I despise Degenes.
Does this island really deserve protection?
DO YOU NEED MY HELP?
IF YOU ALLY YOURSELF WITH ME,
TAKING CONTROL OVER THE CENTER OF THIS COUNTRY WON'T BE JUST A DREAM ANYMORE.
Eh...?
YOU'VE PROBABLY FIGURED OUT WHO I AM BY NOW. HAVEN'T YOU, FORTINBRAS?

What is this guy saying?
I'LL SUCCEED MY FATHER SOON
AND CONTROL THE INNER ISLAND.
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING FOR A PERFECT PARTNER LIKE YOU
IF IT'S YOU AND I, EVEN IF WE LEAVE THE MILITARY, WE CAN STILL TAKE CONTROL OF ILEGENES
YOU'LL BE A PUBLIC FIGURE
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A POLITICIAN, THE RENO FAMILY CAN HELP YOU
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IDEA IS MORE PRACTICAL IF YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE YOUR WISH?
push
WHAT NON-SENSE...

I'M SERIOUS, FORTIN-BRAS
THERE'S NO WAY I WILL ALLY MYSELF WITH SOME-ONE WHO'S GOING TO TAKE AWAY A PAIR OF LEGS FROM A VERY MUCH ALIVE HUMAN BEING
.....
...HOW STUB-BORN.
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE EG' LEGS...
I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM BE SOME LIVING SPARE PART...
I defi-nitely
won't allow it.

Siam
FORTINBRAS.
...YOU WILL CHOOSE ME.
Even if you're a clone, you are an individual being.
Janis is not a god.
You are a human just like us.
You were just implanted with that idea.
ES—

You can't stay in that house. You must be freed
..Es.
HELLO?
!
RRR
For this, I can help you at any time.
Although you like drawing, Janis doesn't.
This means that you are a separate individual.
FON.
If you don't want to, it's okay to reject it.
You don't have to be a spare part.

It's me.
Yes,
.....
I'm COMING HOME NEXT BREAK
DON'T COME PICK ME UP
WAIT FOR ME AT HOME
Niisan

BLADE COMICS SERIES

イルゲネス 03 黒き耀の軌跡

MAG GARDEN

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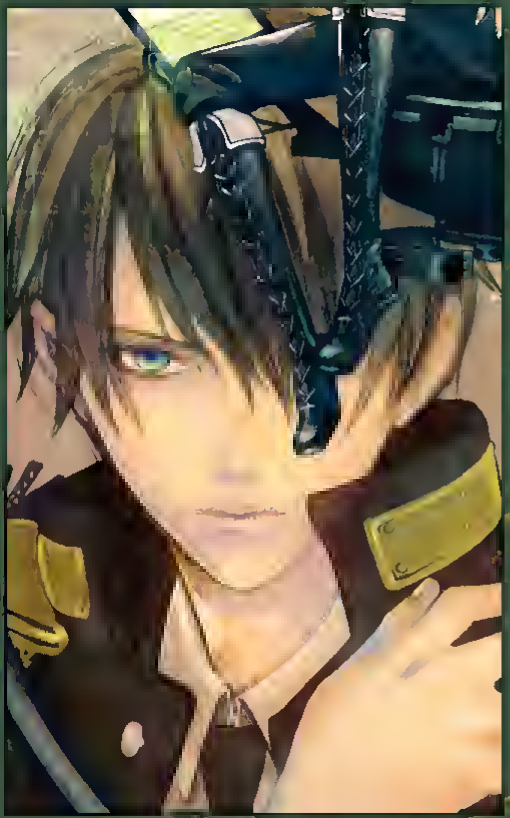
定価 本体571円＋税
マッグガーデン

両親を殺害した男を追って
鳥裏に潜入したフォンだったが、
手がかりを掴むことはできず、
復讐の念に囚われたまま裏に戻った。
報復を諦められず、
鳥裏での捜索を続けようと決意するフォンに、
自分を一緒に連れて行くことを約束させた
シェイクだったが――



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Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

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IF IS FIND OUT ANYTHING, I'LL CONTACT YOU.
clack
From ES yet, huh.
No reply...
clack
Fu...
AS I THOUGHT, IT'S BEST IF I GO TO THE INNER ISLAND ONE MORE TIME.
!
clack

第14話

I HAD NO IDEA THERE WERE THIS MANY PEOPLE IN RENO CORP.
I THOUGHT SINCE IT'S SOMEONE BROTHER KNOWS HE WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO FIND
NOT THIS PERSON EITHER.
knock knock
jete
ES-SAMA.
Yes?
Once I find a clue, then I can ask him to come to the inner island...
TO SEE YOU, FON...
I really want.
.....
flop
HE'S PROBABLY FEELING TORMENTED...
FON LOOKED LIKE HE WANTED TO FIND THAT PERSON QUICKLY.
JANIS-SAMA HAS RETURNED.

BROTHER, WELCOME BACK
PLEASE LET ME TAKE YOUR LUGGAGE
I'M HOME, ES.
THANKS.
GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM FIRST. I'LL BE UP SOON.
OKAY.
I'LL BE IN ES ROOM UNTIL DINNER
IF FATHER COMES HOME COME AND LET ME KNOW.
UNDERSTOOD.
Oh my, it's Janis!

It's been a while.
BRO-THER
LONG TIME NO SEE
YOU'VE GROWN SO BIG!
ARE YOU FINALLY CATCHING UP TO ME?
YES.
YOUR BODY WILL STOP GROWING SOON, RIGHT?
YES I'M ALREADY TWENTY
ISN'T THAT GREAT THEN?

YOU CAN USE THAT SPARE BODY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP GETTING CUT UP AND PUT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN, CONSTANTLY CHANGING PROSTHETICS.
YES.
OH... THEN THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY ANYMORE, EITHER.

OH YES, JANIS
?
I HEARD YOU STILL PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF THE SPARE AFTER YOU'VE TAKEN ITS HANDS AND LEGS
.....
THAT'S RIGHT...

YOU... DON'T THINK JUST BECAUSE DAD REALLY LIKES YOU THAT YOU CAN HAVE EVERYTHING YOUR WAY
KEEPING THAT SPARE BODY WOULD JUST BE A WASTE OF MONEY
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR FUTURE, AFTER YOU'VE OBTAINED HIS HANDS AND LEGS, HE SHOULD BE PUT AWAY.

NO...
BROTHER, ES IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
IF YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT HIM, IT'S OKAY EVEN IF YOU DON'T GIVE HIM LIVING PROSTHETICS.
AND JUST GIVE HIM REGULAR PROSTHETICS.
SO I BELIEVE IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO TAKE CARE OF HIM WHEN HIS BODY BECOMES INCOMPLETE.

That's because
HE'S JUST A CONVENIENT PET, ISN'T HE?
BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A STRANGE ONE TO A SPARE BODY THAT HAS THE SAME FACE AS YOU, YOU'RE ALWAYS...
THE CRUEL REALITY OF LOSING YOUR LEGS IS SOMETHING THAT IS DEEPLY ENGRAVED IN ME.
Brother is the lucky one.
If you haven't forgotten something that day then you also...

slap
shock
!
.....!

S-SORRY, JANIS...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU SAID SOMETHING WEIRD.
THAT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT.
THE CAR YOU WERE IN HAD AN ACCIDENT...
AND IT WAS JUST BY CHANCE I WASN'T ON IT.
YES... BROTHER.
SORRY, I'VE SAID TOO MUCH AS WELL.
BUT I THINK AS THE FAMILY'S SUCCESSOR... IT WAS MOST FORTUNATE THAT I WASN'T IN THAT ACCIDENT.
ONCE I THINK ABOUT GETTING A LIVING PROSTHETIC OR THAT IT WOULD CAUSE MY CELLS TO DIE...
IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE A SPARE BODY, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BE SO RELAXED

.....
AS A MEMBER OF THE RENO FAMILY, YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE APPEARANCES YOURSELF LATER ON.
AFTER YOU'VE GRADUATED FROM MILITARY SCHOOL, YOU CAN STILL COME BACK AND BE MY RIGHT-HAND MAN ANYTIME.
OKAY
I'LL BE ATTENDING THE LAUNCH CEREMONY FOR A NEW AI WITH FATHER IN A WHILE.
BUT LETTING A SPARE PART WANDER AROUND THE HOUSE WILL BE A NUISANCE FOR OTHERS
IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO YOU.
Ah...
AFTER I'VE SUCCEEDED FATHER, THE FIRST THING I WILL DO IS CHANGE THE ATTITUDES TOWARDS CLONED SPARE BODIES
?
BRO-THER.
This person can't do it.

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SO WEIRD I KNOW ALREADY...
step
step
.....
Be careful walking around the inner island at night.
creak
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR CHEEKS ARE SO RED...
!
BROTHER...
AH... IT'S NOTHING

YES... I'M DRAWING THE DAWN ON THE INNER ISLAND
YOU'RE DRAWING AGAIN?

I WENT OUT TO FIND THE CAT THE ONE WITH A BLUE RIGHT EYE AND SILVER LEFT EYE
BUT I NEVER FOUND IT
OH...
YOU WERE STILL OUTSIDE AT A TIME LIKE THAT?

I WENT TO THE CLIFF WHERE I ALWAYS GO TO SKETCH,
AND FOUND THE SUN AT DAWN WAS BEAUTIFUL

...
COME HERE

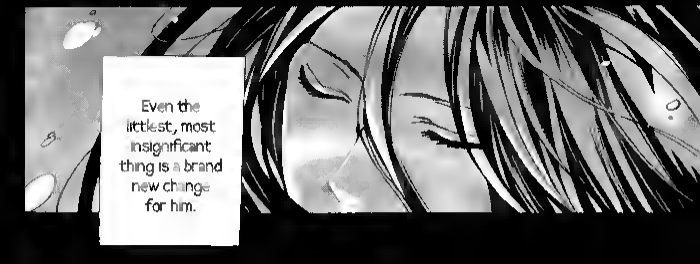
My other self who loves only me
ES...

Everything began from a car accident on the way to the opera house
The driver was dead on site. I, who sat in the back, lost the majority of my limbs but my life was saved.
Father held on tightly to my remaining left hand and kept sighing.
WHY DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO MY LITTLE JANIS? GODDESS...!
Yet brother...
wouldn't look at me.
.....
WE MUST IMMEDIATELY HARVEST YOUR GENES TO CREATE A LIVING SPARE BODY.
USING AN ACCELERANT WOULD BE PUSHING IT A BIT BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER!
LIVING SPARE BODY...
Will using that heal me...?
Grips

The first time I saw him, he was still a baby.
He didn't look like me yet.
I was still young and didn't understand that that was a clone
Afterwards, every time I went to the lab to tune up my body or repair my prosthetics, I would see him getting bigger and bigger. Our age difference was getting smaller and smaller
That little me sleeping deeply in the solution ..
LATELY HE'S BEEN COMING ON DAYS OTHER THAN WHEN HE HAS TO GET REPAIRS
JUST STARING AT IT LIKE THAT
HE'S PROBABLY GETTING IMPATIENT
ALTHOUGH THERE'S STILL A LONG TIME TO GO BEFORE HE CAN MAKE USE OF THE SPARE BODY...

When I was 14
Seeing myself in that tube...
It felt so lonely
There were people everywhere yet he was completely separated from them by a thick glass.
He was created to become my spare body.
Yet he has never seen this world. He has never been hugged by others. Neither does he understand happiness and sadness

To him, I am his only god.



I want to be the one to give him everything.
For ES' sake,
there is absolutely no way I will let that kind of person succeed father
Having only you as my brother is enough...
It's also enough if you look only at me...
clack

I saw ES
He said he's your clone. Your perfect spare
NAME LIST...
shut
touch
ES
how much do you care about Fon?
.....?

Pat
IT'S OKAY YOU'RE PROBABLY VERY TIRED.
NN...
rise
AH... I'M SORRY.
I ACCIDENTALLY FELL ASLEEP.
BROTHER'S HOME, YET I...
Recently.
NERVOUS
I heard from father you've been investigating something until very late at night
.....!

ES.
YES
I heard you met for.

KNOCK.
KNOCK.
JANIS-SAMA, ES-SAMA,
DINNER IS READY.
.....
I SEE...
I'M SURPRISED SINCE THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE GOTTEN CLOSE TO SOMEONE BESIDE ME.
THAT DAY WHEN I WENT TO LOOK FOR THE CAT
I MET HIM BY CHANCE IN AN ALLEY.
HE SAID THAT BROTHER TOLD HIM TO GO TO THE INNER ISLAND IF HE WANTED TO FIND SOMEONE.
.....
BROTHER, I...
OKAY, I GOT IT.
WE'LL BE DOWN RIGHT AWAY.

Pat
OKAY
ALRIGHT, IT'S OKAY LET'S GO EAT
TURN
FON WHAT IS HE DOING RIGHT NOW?
.....
Oh, ES

smile
EH..?
After dinner, come to my room.

Let's play some chess.
.....

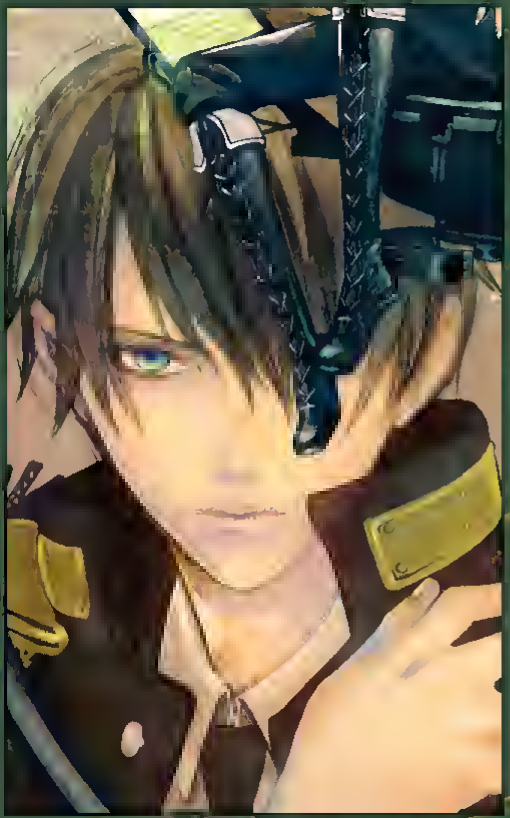
THE BUS SHOULD BE HERE SOON
I have to find him.
If I go to the inner island again...
I should be able to find some clues about that guy.
.....
Fon.
Eh...?

clack
JAC...
QUES?
chins
What ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? UNCUFF ME RIGHT NOW!
NO WAY. IF I DON'T DO THIS, YOU'LL GET AWAY.
BESIDES, I LEFT THE KEY IN THE ROOM.
stare
stare
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
DIDN'T WE AGREE EARLIER?
clack
THAT WE WOULD GO TOGETHER?

If you go to the inner island, you have to take me with you.
nervous
LOOK THE BUS IS HERE
IDIOT! BEING HAND-CUFFED TOGETHER LIKE THIS...
...YOU WANT TO GO TO THE INNER ISLAND, RIGHT?
screeech
UGH
WELL?

SIGH
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE THIS GUY IS A MENACE
Yes.
Jingle

I'm going, too.
HOOOOOLY SHIT
Vroom...



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Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 3 Chapter 15

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第15話

BLONDIE
.....?
LUCKY! A HANDSOME ONE
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHERE TO GO TONIGHT? I'M FREE YOU KNOW..
NO, SORRY-
!
AH JACQUES!
Jerk
.....
Hahaha
Stunned
OH DEAR, WE'VE DISTURBED YOU.
SILLY YOU CAN'T COMPETE WITH THAT
Shit. Pumkin

Pull
CAN'T YOU FIND A WAY TO UNLOCK THIS? I'M NOT GOING TO RUN AWAY
JACQUES
SORRY, FON
I FORGOT WE'RE STILL CUFFED TOGETHER AND PULLED ON YOUR HAND
NO. I'LL UNLOCK IT WHEN WE GO BACK TO THE DORM
.....

OF COURSE NOT. IF YOU JUST GO IN AND ASK
JACQUES, I'VE ALREADY GONE TO A FEW BARS
WE'LL HAVE A DRINK AT THE BAR, BUT YOU CAN ONLY HAVE JUICE
.....
BUT I HAVEN'T FOUND OUT A THING...
BUT IF HE USES FORCE, THEY'LL PROBABLY BREAK
ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S GO TO A BAR TO ASK
BAR?

RELAX.
!

ALL THE PEOPLE AND BUSTLING NOISE ISN'T BAD,
BUT THE LACK OF ROWDINESS YOU GET FROM YOUNGER CUSTOMERS HERE IS GREAT.
THANKS FOR THE PRAISE
YOU GUYS LOOK PRETTY YOUNG YOURSELVES
THIS PLACE SURE HAS A LOT OF CUSTOMERS
IT'S NOT EVEN THE WEEKEND. IS IT ALWAYS THIS CROWDED?
YES
WE GET A LOT OF REGULARS WHO JUST GOT OFF WORK

ESPECIALLY THE ONE NEXT TO YOU.
Sigh
BUT CUSTOMERS WHOSE APPEARANCES DON'T MATCH THEIR PERSONALITIES ARE A COMMON SIGHT, TOO

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
clutch
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH TOP QUALITY AS THE ONE YOU HAVE WITH YOU
YEAH THEY WOULD BRING ALL KINDS OF AIS WITH THEM.
WHAT YOU SAID JUST NOW ABOUT GETTING OFF WORK... DO THEY ALSO WORK AT COMPANIES THAT MAKE THOSE AIS?
CALM DOWN
But, Jacques, this man said I was...
FON...
OH...?
pissed
DON'T JOKE THIS GUY WAS BORN LIKE THIS!
THEN I'M VERY SORRY.
HE'S JUST TOO PRETTY, SO I THOUGHT HE WAS SPECIALLY MADE...
NOT AT ALL!

BLONDE-HAIRED, BLUE-EYED PEOPLE LIKE ME ARE COMMON.
BUT YOU STAND OUT, TOO.
...IT FELT TERRIBLE.
JUST FORGET ABOUT IT.
WITH YOUR LOOKS, IT'S HARD FOR PEOPLE TO NOT MISUNDERSTAND.
...
...ARE YOU REALLY USED TO THIS KIND OF PLACE?

HEY, DO YOU WANT TO TRY HARD LIQUOR THAT JUST CAME IN?
NO, I'M NOT A VERY GOOD DRINKER. IT'S OKAY.
BY THE WAY—
clink
NATURALLY THE OTHER PARTY WOULD BE GUARDED
TO AN UNDERAGED BRAT WHO DIDN'T DRINK ANYTHING AND WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WITH A STERN FACE,
THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE
The bartender who spoke to ES and me was browbeating us.

YOU SAID YOU GET CUSTOMERS WHO SELL AIS
DOES ANY-ONE FROM ALBATROSS TECHNOLO-GIES COME HERE, TOO?
WE GET ALL SORTS OF CUSTOM-ERS ANY-WAYS
WELL, ENJOY YOUR-SELVES TONIGHT
MAYBE
ALBATROSS, HUH
I THINK SO
I'll have a glass of that after all?
I HEARD THEY'VE GOTTEN PRETTY POWERFUL LATELY
SOMETHING ABOUT JOINING RENO CORP
slip
RENO?
YOU SAID RENO CORP?

ALBA-TROSS?
DESIGNERS BABY IS A VERY OLD BROKERAGE FIRM
THEY'RE RUMORED TO BE ONE OF THE BOSSES IN THE BLACK MARKET
RENO CORP IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL COMPANY ON THE INNER ISLAND RIGHT NOW
THE STRONGER THE SUPPORT THE BETTER.
BUT THAT OLD MAN ALBATROSS SEEMS TO HATE THEM A LOT
twist
AT THIS RATE THERE'S GOING TO BE A FIGHT SOON
BUT ALBA-TROSS BEING ONE OF THEM IS VERY WELL-KNOWN HERE ON THE INNER ISLAND
HE REALLY HATES RENO CORP DRAWING MANY OF HIS BUSINESS OPPONENTS OVER TO THEIR SIDE
This man...
BLACK MARKET'S BOSS?
Rumor has it that the black market is managed by several powerful people in a "collegiate system"
Although no one knows who the bosses

I'M MAGGE BATTLE FROM DAILY OPINION.
A REPORTER ON THE INNER ISLAND. NICE TO MEET YOU.
I REMEMBER YOUR EYES.
YOU WERE ASKING AROUND THE BARS HERE EARLIER, TOO.
WHO ARE YOU?
INNER ISLAND'S REPORTER...
reach
Ah...
THAT'S...
Is it a game?
Hm?
YOU'RE INVESTIGATING DESINGERS BABY, COULD YOU BE PLANING ON BUYING A CHILD?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
WE WERE AFRAID WE'D GET SEPARATED, SO WE WORE THIS.

MILITARY SCHOOL.
RENO CORP'S PRESIDENT'S SECOND SON IS IN THE MILITARY SCHOOL
ON THE INNER ISLAND?
YOU GUYS LOOK YOUNG STILL STUDENTS?
WE'RE IN MILITARY SCHOOL.

The inner island's head?
THAT'S RIGHT I REMEMBER THE SECOND SON'S NAME IS JANIS.
SO JANIS IS A MEMBER OF THE RENO FAMILY?
SPEAKING OF THE RENO FAMILY, THERE'S A RUMOR GOING AROUND THAT THE CURRENT PRESIDENT IS ALSO ONE OF THE BLACK MARKET'S BOSSES.

Then he's not just someone with power
He's the very person who controls the black market!
COULD IT BE...
Could it be Janis is the son of a black market leader?
HEY, MAGGIE. DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?
A SKETCH?
AH. THIS IS THE CEO OF ALBATROSS TECHNOLOGIES.
rustle
AND THEN THE OTHER ONE IS.— EH?
!
.....

flip
IT'S BEST IF YOU TWO DON'T GO NEAR THIS MAN.
WHY NOT?
THIS MAN IS ONE OF THE "SERGEANTS" IN CHARGE OF THE BLACK MARKET'S AGENTS.
ALL THE AGENTS THERE ARE AIS THEY WILL DO ANYTHING TO REMOVE AN OBSTACLE.
AND THIS MAN IS THE COMMANDER.
YOU TWO LISTEN TO ME
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT IT'S BETTER IF YOU TWO DON'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD.
creak
THAT IS, IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES.

...FON
THE SITUATION'S GETTING OUT OF HAND
BE GOOD AND WEAR THE HOOD
.....
Reno Corporation and that man...?
I never imagined the Reno family and that man would be connected...
Did my parents' murder have to do with the Reno family, too...?
And the man who killed my parents is a sergeant with control over the black market's agents...?
Janis is the son of a black market leader

"I'll succeed my father soon...
And control the inner island."
.....
SO BY THAT, YOU MEANT YOU WILL TAKE OVER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BLACK MARKET, JANIS...
The black market that I despise so much...?
"Do you want to join me, Fon?"

shock
.....?
WE SHOULDN'T STICK AROUND A PLACE LIKE THIS. LET'S HURRY UP.
.....
YEAH...
What a joke...!

EH ?
HEY, YOU!
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WITH THE PEACOCK EYES FROM BEFORE?
!
There's something I must ask Janis too.
THAT TIME YOU ACTUALLY ..
DU!!
.....
HEY, COME WITH US.
YOU HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH? I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY THIS TIME
THEY'RE THE ONES FROM BEFORE

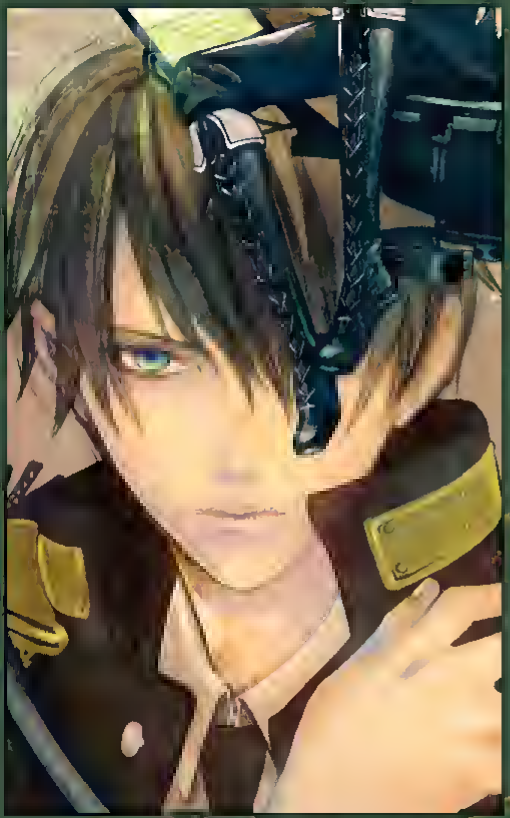
Sha
Fon!?
PUNCH

grit
Bas... tard!
dash
!!
What kind of joke is this?
thud

What...just happened..?
!!
step
step
pant
pant
Crunch

Quit kidding around!
dash
Come here!
JAC-
Stop, Fon!
SHOCK
LIGH...
press

What happened to him just now..!
Just like an animal that has lost all rationality.
IF I DIDN'T STOP HIM, HE WOULD'VE KILLED ALL THOSE GUYS...!
What the hell happened to Fon...?



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-Kokuyou no Kiseki-

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 3 Chapter 16

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第16話

rip
grab
rip
JACQUES, WHAT ARE YOU...
rip
toss
I won't let you go to the inner island again.

YOU SHOULDN'T GO THERE

NO
THANKS TO MAGGE, I FINALLY KNOW THAT MAN'S BACK-GROUND.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

EVEN IF YOU RIP THAT,
I CAN STILL REMEMBER IT.
I need.. To find out where that man is fast.
...UGH!

Don't step another foot on the inner island!
Forget about this al-ready!

JACQUES, WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY? YOU'RE SO WEIRD!
.....
WEIRD?
YES, YOU ARE. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D BE SO ANXIOUS.
I WILL STILL LOOK FOR THOSE PEOPLE ON THE INNER ISLAND.
EVEN WITHOUT YOU, I MYSELF WILL...
SPACE
!!!

JACQU-
ES...!

You understand?
grip
I'll tie you to the bed.
If you go to the inner island again,

.....
!
There is something scary resting in Fan's heart.
Squeak
SPRAY
If it remains ignored like this, that thing will definitely change Fan completely...
THIS CAN'T CONTINUE

But there is some kind of secret in him.
Fon doesn't seem to be aware of it at all....
WHAT IS IT?
rushhhh
WHAT EXACTLY WAS DR. LITTENBER HIDING?
WHY DID HE ADOPT FON?
.....
Murder Ball

.....
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO LOOK INTO THIS
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DOCTOR AND FON'S PARENTS.
"Speaking of the Reno family, there's a rumor going around that the current president is also one of the black market's bosses."
JANIS IS THE SON OF A BLACK MARKET BOSS?

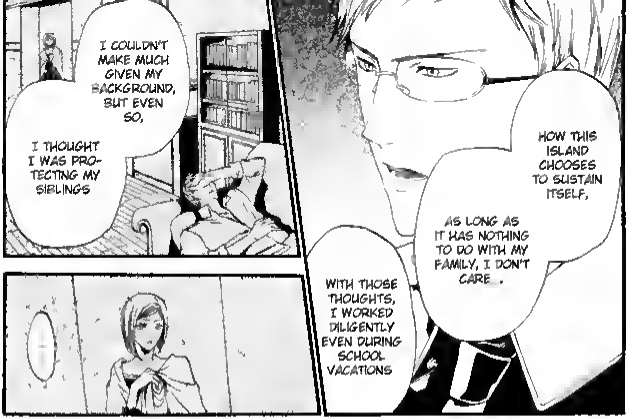
If that's true, then it's not right.
JAN'S ...
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN INVESTIGATING LATELY?
HEY... NICOLAS ...
CHOMP
YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE A BREAK DURING LUNCH?

YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME?
FON'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD, TOO JACQUES WON'T SAY ANYTHING EITHER.
NOT SPEAK-ING
Wait, wait!
You guys have some-thing you can't tell others, right? I get that!
CRUD-UP...
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T HELP SOME-HOW?
shock

MY FAMILY HAS BEEN FISHERMEN FOR GENERATIONS.
BUT HALF A CENTURY AGO, ILEGENES' FISHERIES CAME TO AN END
BECAUSE OF POLLUTION IN THE OCEAN YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
AH YES.
WHEN THIS COUNTRY'S GENETIC ENGINEERING RESEARCH RECEIVED INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION
A LOT OF THOSE WHO USED TO BE IN THE FISHERIES SWITCHED OVER TO GENETICS
BUT MY PARENTS REMAINED FISHERMEN.
WHEN MY MOM WAS ON HER SICKBED,
LEAVING BEHIND A LOT OF FAMILY MEMBERS...
MY DAD OVER-WORKED HIMSELF AND DIED,
By controlling genetics, we will be able to create oceanic creatures easily.
The animals already affected by the pollution have no value at all...
And,

a massive debt.
When my dad was alive, at least he didn't default on his debt.
But having to raise my siblings as well as take care of my ailing mother, there was no way that I could possibly come up with that kind of money
A man who had his eyes set on my younger sister said...
I WANT TO BUY YOUR SISTER'S GENETICS
TELLING YOU TO SELL HER OFF
JUST GIVE ME SOME OF HER GENES AND YOUR DEBT WILL BE CLEARED
BRO-THER...
MY SUGGES-TION ISN'T BAD, RIGHT?
I thought it was suspicious.

What he would create with them.
I didn't have to sell my sister,
but I knew very well that after I sold her genes.
I'LL HAVE TO SAY NO
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY PAY OFF THAT DEBT ON YOUR OWN.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO A UNIVERSITY OUTSIDE THE ISLAND?
SO WHO'S GOING TO PAY US BACK?
I DECIDED I WON'T GO.
AND I WILL FIND A LOT OF JOBS.
I WILL FIND ANOTHER WAY TO PAY THE DEBT.
BUT I WON'T SUBMIT TO YOU.
If you want to play with genetics, then go.
If you want to treat them as some sort of commodity, that's up to you.


I COULDN'T MAKE MUCH GIVEN MY BACKGROUND, BUT EVEN SO,
I THOUGHT I WAS PROTECTING MY SIBLINGS
HOW THIS ISLAND CHOOSES TO SUSTAIN ITSELF,
AS LONG AS IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY FAMILY, I DON'T CARE...
WITH THOSE THOUGHTS, I WORKED DILIGENTLY EVEN DURING SCHOOL VACATIONS

BUT, CRUDUP,
NICOLAS, YOU...

That day, I had work in the early morning.
I saw a girl who was soliciting customers near a bar.
THAT WASN'T THE CASE AT ALL.

EH...?
Y-YOU..!
THAT'S
That p...son, who wore reve...ing clothes and smiled at men, was my sister...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS KIND OF PLACE?
AH!
I DON'T KNOW WHO MADE YOU DO THIS BUT STOP WITH THIS FOOL-ISHNESS!
?
WE'RE GOING HOME
W..IT, WHAT ..RE YOU DOING? IT HURTS...
WHO ARE YOU?
HEY,

I was in complete shock.
Where should I direct my anger?
AH, DO YOU KNOW THE OWNER OF THIS BODY?
ONCE IN A WHILE I GET CUSTOMERS WHO CALL ME ANOTHER NAME AS WELL
YOU, TOO?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
No.
My parents, who refused to go into genetics?
The guys who looked at my sister in a dirty way?
Me, who knew nothing and thought I was protecting my family all this time?
Or the clone who's using my sister's body to solicit customers. ?
THE ONE AT FAULT IS THIS ISLAND FOR ALLOWING THIS KIND OF THING TO HAPPEN
IF YOU CAN'T ADAPT YOU CAN'T SURVIVE YOU CAN ONLY OBEY

CRUDUP, WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THIS COUNTRY?
ME ?
I... HAVE NEVER BEEN PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN GENETIC ENGINEERING
THEN YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS MILITARY SCHOOL?
JUST DIVIDING THE STUDENTS INTO A SPECIAL CLASS AND A REGULAR CLASS IS ALREADY STRANGE ENOUGH
USING OUR BACKGROUNDS TO SEPARATE US, GOING AS FAR AS NOT LETTING US HAVE THE POWER TO SPEAK...
DON'T YOU FIND ANY OF THAT STRANGE?
.....
SORRY... I REALLY DON'T UNDER-STAND IT
BUT IF I'M ABLE TO, I REALLY WANT TO HELP YOU GUYS
SO, PLEASE TELL ME.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?

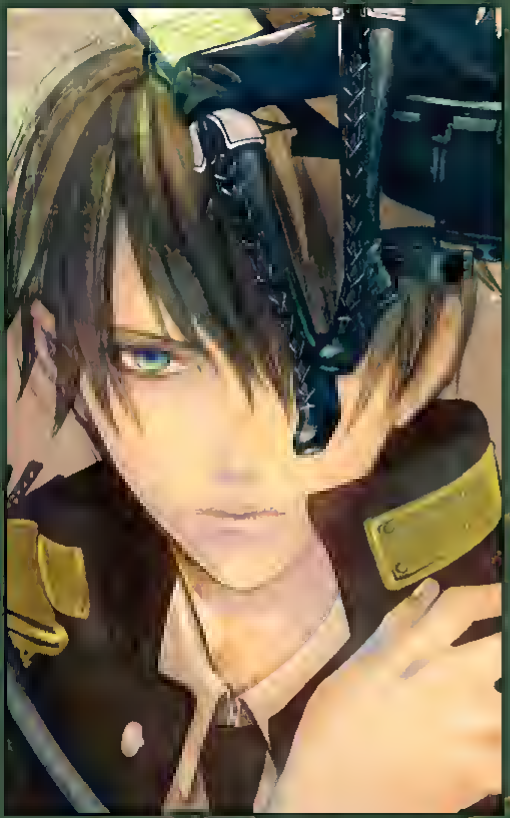
SORRY, CRUDUP.
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO TELL YOU.
!
BUT THE TIME WILL COME SOONER OR LATER.
tap
This country must change starting from its very foundation...
HEY, NICOLAS!

A perfect leader must not submit to anyone.
!
There is no one else beside him who can lead
top
top
We have to form an anti-government group, with him at its center, and overthrow this corrupt power
Then, we will definitely be able to change this island,
and establish a country where power is obtained not based on one's background but their abilities.

FORTINBRAS
GOOD...
I WAS ABOUT TO GO TO YOUR ROOM.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT...
!!

I have to go to your room.
JANIS...?
Is Janis there?
FORTINBRAS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE SWORD...?

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
Janis...



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Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 3 Chapter 17

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第17話

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
Grip
JAN-IS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAND OUTSIDE
YOU CAN GO IN AND TALK YOU KNOW.
.....
.....?
I need to
ask you some-thing.

THE MAN YOU KNOW
IS THE CEO OF ALBATROSS TECHNOLOGIES, IAN RATZENBERG
AM I RIGHT?
DESIGNERS BABY'S BROKERAGE FIRM HAS BEEN DOING WELL LATELY
THEY BUY THE GENES OF THE WORLD'S MOST CAPABLE PEOPLE
USING THE CREATION OF HIGHLY INTELLIGENT BABIES AS THEIR SELLING POINT THEY'VE BROUGHT MANY WEALTHY PEOPLE FROM ABROAD OVER TO THEIR SIDE AND HAVE SHOT AHEAD OF THEIR COMPETITION
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE INNER ISLAND IS ALSO COLLUDING WITH THEM, USING FORCEFUL METHODS TO EXPAND THEIR DISTRIBUTION
WERE YOU AWARE OF THAT?

I INVESTIGATED.
THAT'S PRETTY DETAILED.
.....
AFTER THAT, THEIR SALES SKYROCKETED.
THEY WERE BOUGHT BY A CERTAIN LARGE FIRM ON THE INNER ISLAND
BUT,
THEY WERE ORIGINALLY A SMALL BROKERAGE FIRM.
WHAT ARE THESE TWO TALKING ABOUT?

On this business of selling the world's geniuses...
What is your opinion?
THAT...
IS PROBABLY WHAT EVERYONE WANTS, ISN'T IT?

IF SOMEONE...
WHO DIDN'T AGREE WITH THIS BUSINESS CAME OUT AND MADE ACCUSATIONS,
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
.....
MUST I ANSWER YOU?
YES
touch
!

!
Based on your answer...
You must answer.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NICOLAS?
!
.....?
clack
For-tin-bras!
THANK YOU.

!?
IT WAS ME WHO TOOK THIS SWORD FOR REPAIR
THE INSTRUCTOR ASKED ME TO PICK IT UP SO YOU HELPED ME BRING IT OVER?
WHAT-
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!...?
I'VE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT
.....

Jani&!
.....
I'M GOING OUT AGAIN FOR A BIT
NICOLAS
Fortinbras...
What made you so agitated?
PLEASE CONSIDER MY ROOMMATE'S GOOD INTENTIONS.

NICO-LAS
WASN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
WHAT IS IT?
YES
"Get ahold of his heart, Nicolas."
.....

IT'S NOTHING.
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT LATER.
FINE
step
step

rumble
IT'S THUNDER-ING...
FON.

JAC-QUES..
WHERE DID YOU GO WITH THAT SWORD?
WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH IT?
.....

DON'T TELL ME YOU WENT TO FIND JANIS...
.....

SORRY, JACQUES
?
FON?
I'D LIKE TO REST FOR TODAY...

'ushhhh
.....
.....
YOU'RE NOT ASLEEP YET?
rumble
AFRAID OF THUNDER?
DON'T TELL ME, YOU'RE...

BRAT?
JUST LIKE THE EXCUSE THAT LITTLE BRAT AT HOME WOULD COME UP WITH.
I...JUST CAN'T SLEEP.
NO... I'M NOT AFRAID OF THUNDER.
I HAVE A LOT OF BROTHERS BACK HOME THE YOUNGEST IS SEVEN
THAT BRAT WAS OBVIOUSLY TERRIFIED OF THUNDER BUT HE LOVED PRETENDING TO BE TOUGH AND WOULD SAY THINGS LIKE THAT
I SAID I'M NOT SCARED!
THAT'S NOT...
IN THE END HE WOULD ALWAYS CRAWL INTO MY BED....

wave wave
SLEEP SOON, OKAY?
grin
SEEING YOU SO SPIRITED, YOU MUST BE OKAY
It is said that thunder is the sound of the goddess' baby's cries.
When an AI is born, does it make a sound like thunder, too?
CAN'T SLEEP?

I TRIED TO SLEEP BUT AS SOON AS I FALL ASLEEP I GET A NIGHT-MARE AND WAKE UP
IT'S SCARY BY MYSELF
NIGHT-MARE?
CAN I SLEEP IN THIS ROOM? THE SOFA S OKAY
I DREAMT I WAS IN WATER UNABLE TO BREATHE IT WAS PAINFUL
I KNOW I NEED PROPER REST FOR THIS BODY BUT I
BUT YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU SLEEP ON THE SOFA
COME HERE
I UNDER-STAND COME IN

YOUR HAIR IS SO LONG
I'LL CUT IT FOR YOU TOMORROW
THANK YOU SO MUCH, JANIS-SAMA!
BUT
HEY
CAN YOU STOP CALLING ME JANIS-SAMA?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO FORMAL EITHER
YOU'RE MY SPARE BODY BUT YOU STILL HAVE THE SAME FACE AS ME. IT FEELS WEIRD.

BROTHER.
CALL ME.
THEN, WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
BRO-THER.
BRO-THER?
Janis-niisan.

Only I can help Brother.
And only Brother can protect me.
THE THUNDER WON'T STOP.
Then...
will my heart be freed, too?
But if I do that,
Even if I'm an AI created to be a spare,
If I escape this place then maybe I'll be able to live like a human, just like you said.
Hey, Fan,
you said to me, "You must be freed."
!

clack
To protect brother...
shake
NO
RIGHT NOW,
I HAVE TO FOCUS ON FINDING THAT PERSON FON IS LOOKING FOR
clack
clack

THE NEXT CLASS IS PROGRAMMING
WE'VE BEEN SITTING SINCE NOON. IT'S MAKING ME SLEEPY
JAC-QUES...
CAN YOU TAKE YOUR STUDIES MORE SERIOUSLY?
WHAT IS IT, FON?
THE MAYOR GRAFT-ING...?
hmfh
HE'S BETTER THAN ANYONE IN GUN-RELATED CLASSES
IS THAT TRUE? BUT THE MAYOR'S SALARY IS WAY HIGHER THAN OURS
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT?
?
MAYOR ZICKLER IS ACTUALLY GRAFTING...
IF HE HAS EXTRA MONEY, I REALLY WISH HE'D TAKE SOME OUT AND FIX THIS SCHOOL

F-FOR-TINBRAS-SENPAI!?
WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HUH?
I LOOK AT THE NEWS EVERY DAY.
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT REPORTED
BUT EVERYONE IN OUR CLASS HAS HEARD ABOUT IT
WE EVEN HEARD THAT HE WORKED WITH PEOPLE FROM THE INNER ISLAND TO SELL OFF DEFECTIVE GENES
WHERE
MAYBE YOU JUST HAPPENED TO MISS THIS NEWS
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE

THEN, IT'S JUST A RUMOR.

.....

A rumor. .

There was no report on Mayor Zickler's grafting yet the rumors were everywhere. A few days later...
.....
.....
WHAT'S WRONG JACQUES?
We're in class right now.
HM...?
THE LATEST NEWS
JUST REPORTED THAT MAYOR ZICKLER HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR CORRUPTION
The rumor became truth.

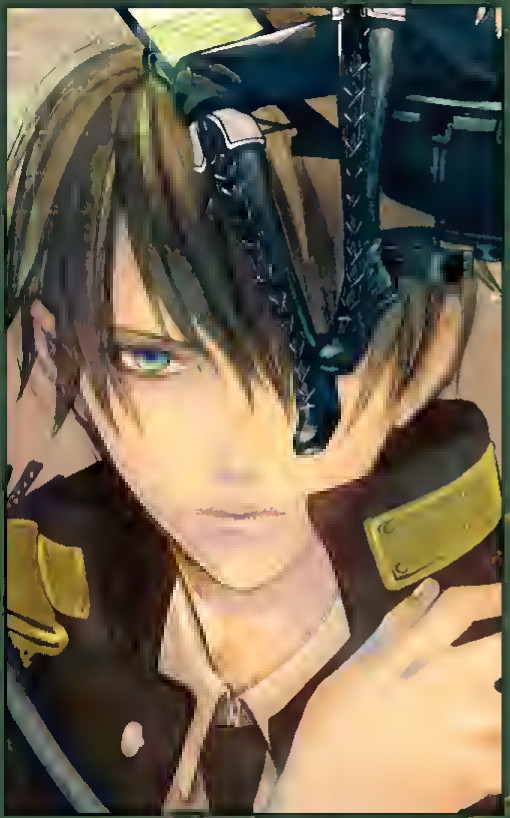
THIS WAS THE RUMOR THAT CAUSED ALL THAT FUSS EARLIER IN THE SCHOOL?
THIS BREAKING NEWS MEANS IT WAS NEVER REPORTED BEFORE, JUST LIKE FON SAID
LOOKS LIKE A REPORTER WENT TO INVESTIGATE AFTER HEARING THE RUMOR.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE...
OR MAYBE IT'S NOT A COINCIDENCE
IF THE RUMOR WASN'T CONVINCING, THE MAJORITY OF REPORTERS WOULDN'T ACT ON IT.
MAYBE THE REPORTER HAD SOMETHING OTHER PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW
SOMETHING LIKE DETAILS OF THE GRAFT WAS LEAKED
BUT WHO WOULD DO THAT?
And what effect does such a small thing have?
This feels like it was intentional
WAS IT SOMEONE WHO'S GOOD AT HACKING?
HACKING

FON, NICOLAS IS GOOD AT PROGRAMMING, RIGHT?
NICOLAS?
HE'S GREAT AT IT. WHY?
"I have to talk to you about something."
hit
.....
WHAT THE?
rustle

!
I Kno
CRUDUP
?

clack clack
.....
...OKAY,
DOWNLOAD COMPLETE...
phew
touch
What is this name list?
THUMP

WH...
THIS VOICE
So it was you.
Nicolas.
.....
clack



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THIS NAME LIST...
WHO ARE YOU GOING TO FORCE TO STEP DOWN NEXT?

第18話

SHOCK
.....
FORTINBRAS
AND JACQUES TOO...
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
CRUDUP, YOU...

BUT I COULDN'T JUST SIT IDLY AND WATCH
I KNOW YOU SAID YOU'LL TELL ME EVENTUALLY...
Sorry!
THEN,
SO THAT'S HOW...
I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT YOU WERE DOING SO I WATCHED YOU.
SO I FOLLOWED YOU AND SAW YOU WERE ALWAYS IN THE EMPTY LIBRARY.
.....
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LEAKED INFORMATION ABOUT THE GRAFT, WEREN'T YOU?
I DID IT
THAT'S CORRECT
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
YOU HID HERE, STEALING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION RELATING TO THOSE IN THE SENATE.

I CAN'T BEAR THE SITUATION THE ISLAND IS IN NOW
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
THEY SHOULD ALL BE PUNISHED. IT WAS WITH THOSE THOUGHTS THAT I DECIDED TO DO THIS
THE MAYOR AND SENATE MEMBERS BREAKING THE LAW...
clack
.....

YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT WHAT YOU DID WAS ILLEGAL.
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE CONSE-QUENCES?
OF COURSE.

I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE REGRET.
EVEN IF YOU FEEL THAT IT'S WRONG.
THERE ARE VERY FEW MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO WILL VOICE THEIR OPINIONS PUBLICLY
AFTER FON LEFT,
NICOLAS WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO STARTED FEELING DOUBTFUL.
I CAME TO THE REALIZATION WHEN I HEARD YOU CRITICIZE THE SYSTEM EARLIER.
IT SHOULDN'T CONTINUE THIS WAY.
JACQUES...

"Vengeance isn't just about punishing them with your own hands.
This is not the only kind of revenge, Fon..."
.....
I DON'T THINK WHAT NICOLAS DID WAS WRONG

I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE BOTH SAYING
.....
I WON'T STOP YOU, NICOLAS.
FORTINBRAS—
IF IT'S YOU,
YOU PROBABLY WON'T GET CAUGHT SINCE YOU'RE PRETTY SKILLFUL.
...BUT,

IF YOU CONTINUE WITH YOUR HACKING,
THE AUTHORITIES WILL CATCH ON SOONER OR LATER.
YES I KNOW
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, I WON'T DRAG YOU GUYS DOWN WITH ME...
THE TIMES YOU'RE ON THE MOVE AND HOW YOU MOVE,
YOUR HOBBIES,
ALL OF THOSE MAKE IT INCREDIBLY EASY TO FIND A PERSON.
I'M AWARE OF THAT
THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEANT.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, THEN YOU SHOULD BE MORE THOROUGH AND MAKE THEM FEEL TRULY THREATENED
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

Will form an anti-government committee.

YOU SAID FOUR...
!
Eh?
Me, too!?

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY OBJEC-TIONS?
...YES. HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ANYWAY.
!
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT, RIGHT, NICOLAS?

IF WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE THIS COUNTRY ONE DAY, IT'S MORE FORMAL TO HAVE A NAME.
ALRIGHT, LET'S DECIDE ON THE COMMITTEE'S NAME
.....
...IT'S DECIDED THEN

WE SHOULD COME UP WITH A NAME THAT CAN'T BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANYTHING.
.....
ELEPHANT'S TUSK...?
JACQUES, WITH A NAME LIKE THAT,
PEOPLE WILL NO DOUBT THINK OF "IVORY".
NO, LET'S CALL IT THIS.

*象の牙 refers to an "elephant's tusk" which Jacques proposes as the name. Micah thinks people will confuse the name with "ivory" 象牙 which comes about by removing the particle の in the word.

We'll be attacking from within the military.
We will use that name as a warning.
From that day on, the four of us
exchanged information here in this library,
while initiating an underground movement via the internet.
Stealing information or attacking databases
aren't enough to throw the political world into panic.
Stores on the inner island illegally financed by members of the upper strata
only slowly fall into financial trouble

Like this, even without revenge,
if it'll dissipate your hatred a little bit, it's enough.
NICOLAS, HACK INTO THIS ONE NEXT
I WANT INFORMATION ON THEIR DEALS.
OKAY, I'LL TRY
Right, Fon?
WHAT IS IT JACQUES?
ARE YOU DONE WITH THE CALCULATIONS?
No
Ah...
UH, GUYS...
JUST GOT A PIECE OF NEWS.

THOSE PLATIN WILL BE ECSTATIC BEING ABLE TO BUY PROSTHETIC PARTS AT CHEAP PRICES
.....
WITH OFFICIALS STEPPING DOWN BECAUSE OF OUR ACTIONS,
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME FACTORY ON THE INNER ISLAND CLOSED DOWN AS A RESULT.
AND ALSO,
IT SEEMS MOST OF THE PARTS AT THE FACTORY ARE BEING DISPOSED OF INCLUDING THE ORIGINALS
HEY, BY "DISPOSED OF", YOU DON'T MEAN...
Sfx: Slam
!!
FON?

I'M GOING BACK TO OUR ROOM.
TO BEING OVER ANOTHER CD.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE HATES ARTIFICIAL BODIES.
...BUT,
Small actions like ours will not put any pressure on the black market.
Even if a factory closes, a new one will open...
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY
step
step
As the number of AIs increase, so will tragedies.
To reduce the number being created, the market's scale must be shrunk.
But as long as there are people who need AIs, political pressure is a must...

clack
HM
NEW EMAIL..
WHO SENT IT?
click
shock
Wha...
...Ugh!

What ...?
.....?
TICK
TICK
WHAT'S WRONG, JACQUES?
FON IS STILL NOT BACK YET
HE LEFT AN HOUR AGO
.....

AREN'T YOU A BIT OVERPRO-TECTIVE, JACQUES?
FON'S NOT A KID ANY-MORE YOU KNOW.
AH, MAYBE SOMETHING CAME UP.
.....
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'LL RUN AWAY IF YOU'RE NOT LOOKING
.....
AH, HEY, JACQUES!
He couldn't have!
clatter
Uwah!

step
step
step
DAMN IT!
I SHOULD'VE GONE WITH HIM
FON!
FON, ARE YOU HERE?
gasp
THAT'S RIGHT. THE COMPUTER.
HE WAS ALWAYS WAITING FOR SOMEONE'S EMAIL...
.....

click
ES?
WHO IS ES?
The man you're looking for...
I know where he is.
That idiot!

HEY, WAIT A SECOND, JACQUES!
AT THIS HOUR, WE NEED TO GET PERMISSION OR WE'RE SCREWED!
I'M THE ONE ON DUTY TODAY
IF YOU DRIVE OFF IN A MILITARY CAR LIKE THIS AND SOMETHING HAPPENS,
WHAT AM I TO DO?
I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY
DON'T BE STUPID! I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO GET YELLED AT!

Open the door for me.
Until I find you...
sfx: screeeeeeh
You have to stay calm, Fon.

ES
FON!
I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
I...
NEVER MIND THAT. ES...

Where is
that man?

■アトガキ。

皆様こんにちは 石堰です。3巻お読み下さり有難うございます。気がつけばもう3巻です。お副は1巻 2巻に比べとという状アトリエがこんなんなっちゃたから(笑)シリアスカラ流れたになってきました。(^^;)
2巻では私達を背景で、ルシュエス兄さんがいよいよラスボスを あれ?な雰囲気を出していたしゃいます。ジャンヌとエスのような関係が大好きなので 4koスがあれら描 ていきたいです。とはオマケも楽しいです〜 イルゲス軍学校のクラスの人数もあり多くなので モブ4も何回も同じ人物出ていたり(笑) 楽しく描かせて頂いてます。
そっ…そぅ私はよくネームと誤字があるそうで(う) フォンとシェイクが酒場さん探しているシーンでシェイクが「兄様にやめろくれよ こいつは天然物だ」とうっとうを「こいつは自然体だ」と打ち間違え「どっちにしろシェイクが食物扱いよね(笑)」とされた伏 大変 ツボりました。シェイクほど自然体な人いないとうか。

3巻はいよいよ所でるか 4巻もおおむね頑張ります。
そしていつもトーン貼り手伝ってくれるお姉ちゃんありがとう!!

石堰 カルし。

あとがき

前回はイルゲネス国立軍学校の秘密(?)に触れましたので、今回は島裏の秘密に迫ろうと思います。
島裏と呼ばれる地域は、イルゲネス島の北側。
エルナム湾を囲む街区49(エリア・フォーティン)という地区を中心に広がっています。フォンたちの軍学校がある島表とは、ゲナム山を挟んでちょうど反対側。
さてその島裏。昔はひなびた漁村でした。名物はエルナムタコで、漁師さんたちの間ではトマトと一緒に煮込んだ赤タコ汁が人気だったとか。
そんな漁村も、今では高層ビルの建ち並ぶ不夜城です。はっきり言って島表よりもずっと繁栄しています。表はクラシックな香り漂う街並みですが、裏は御覧の通りラス●ガスか歌舞●町かといった具合です。入国管理も甘いのでよそから来た曰く付きのごろつきなんかも棲みついていてカオスです。そんな島裏にはエルナム・ヒルズという高級住宅地もあってそこに住まう人々は「ヒルズ族」と呼ばれているとかいないとか。
レノ家の豪邸もその一角にありますが、私が「さすがはレノ家!」と思ったのは、執事さんとメイドさんがフツーにいたことです。外しません、カチル先生。ベテラン執事はきっとこの還六十年。ですが、脱ぐと凄いんです。実は筋肉隆々です。ジャニスの身に何かあった時「ぼっちゃま―!」と叫んで体を張るためです。エスのしつけもベテラン執事が行ったものと思われ!(たぶんロッテンマイヤーさん並の厳しさ)。メイドたちはたぶん選りすぐりのクローン部隊です。
レノ家は見れば見るほど「華麗なる一族」を地で行く感じですが、大叔父とか大伯母とか伯母の夫とか、確執多めな人々がわらわらいそうで、レノ家だけで話がひとつできそうな。そんな上流階級まではびこる奥の深い島裏。
その背徳の街の運命をも握るようになるフォン。次巻ではついにフォンの秘密が明らかになります。

桑原水菜

イルゲネス～黒耀の軌跡～③

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